

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States; to the Honorable Albert Gore, Jr., President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Donna E. Shalala, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services; to the Honorable David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General; to the Honorable Robert A. Underwood, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Carl T. C. Gutierrez, I Magáláhen Guáhan ("the Governor of Guam").

POM-595. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, the government of the United States receives revenues from rent, royalties, net profit share payments, and related late payment penalties from natural gas and oil leases issued pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

Whereas, these leases are for tracts or portions of tracts lying seaward of the zone defined and governed by Section 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(g)), or lying within such zone but to which Section 8(g) does not apply, the geographic center of which lies within a distance of two hundred miles from any part of the coastline of Louisiana as defined by Section 304(4) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (U.S.C. 1453(4)); and

Whereas, there are over four thousand five hundred offshore oil and gas rigs and platforms off the coast of Louisiana and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), with such structures representing over ninety-five percent of all offshore structures in the world; and

Whereas, these offshore structures support and impact an abundant commercial and recreational fishery along an intricate coastline which is in excess of seven thousand miles long; and

Whereas, the enforcement division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with the responsibility for the enforcement and regulation of Louisiana's marine fishing industry which, with recreational fishing and commercial fishing activities combined, constitutes an industry with a total economic impact on the state of \$3.6 billion annually through landings of over one billion pounds and direct employment of over forty thousand people; and

Whereas, a well-regulated, well-managed, and well-monitored Outer Continental Shelf region and a well-regulated, well-managed, and well-monitored coastline of Louisiana are of benefit to the uninterrupted operation and maintenance of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, a continuing dependable source of funds for the operation of the enforcement division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries would ensure the continuation of efforts to secure the Outer Continental Shelf region of the Gulf of Mexico and the coastline of Louisiana for both the oil and gas industry and the fishing industry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the U.S. Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation are hereby memorialized to provide funding from revenues received from oil and gas activity on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for state enforcement of the wildlife and fisheries laws; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the presiding officers of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-596. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to the increase in gasoline prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 189

Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy report that there are adequate gasoline supplies to keep prices in check. Further, 87 percent of the service stations in Michigan recently surveyed by the American Automobile Association report that they expect to have adequate gasoline supplies this summer; and

Whereas, Profits of the world's largest oil-producing companies tripled in the first three months of the year. Financial analysts predict that the companies will earn more revenue this year than ever before; and

Whereas, In the biggest weekly jump since 1973, when such statistics were first recorded, gasoline prices have soared in June. As of June 13, 2000, the statewide average cost per gallon was \$2.01, a 27-cent per gallon increase since the previous week. That was 87-cents per gallon higher than the same time last year. In Metro Detroit, as of the same date, the average cost per gallon was \$2.04, which was 40-cents higher than the previous week and 92-cents per gallon more than the same time last year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to investigate the rapid increase in gasoline prices and to take immediate action; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-597. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to investigating the factors responsible for reduced gasoline supplies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

Whereas, The recent surge in gasoline prices nationwide has shocked consumers. The federal government has struggled to find remedies for this new and unexpected burden. Matters relating to the federal role in regulating commerce, new foreign demand for oil as overseas economies recover from economic crises, and the decision by oil producing nations to reduce output have contributed to this situation. Even the federal government will face limits on what it can do to influence global circumstances; and

Whereas, Although the rise in gasoline prices is a national problem, gasoline prices in Michigan are amongst the highest in the nation. As families here and around the country plan their vacations, the cost of gasoline may well harm Michigan's tourism industry as people seek locales closer to home. The state's automobile industry is bound to suffer if unreasonably high gasoline prices persist as will the agricultural sector. Michigan consumers have been economically overwhelmed by the near-doubling of the retail price of a gallon of gasoline within the last year. For those living paycheck to paycheck, purchasing fuel just to make it to work is difficult; and

Whereas, Despite the global factors that have contributed to the tremendous increase

in gasoline prices, a number of measures at the national level may provide some relief until global circumstances become more favorable. Identifying why gasoline stockpiles were allowed to fall so low, examining the impact of new regulations requiring cleaner-burning fuel, and exploring ways of using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve are issues that Congress should explore; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to investigate the factors responsible for reduced gasoline supplies and the recent increases in retail gasoline prices; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-598. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to initiating a study to determine the cause of the recent gasoline price surge; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Whereas, Gasoline prices have doubled in recent months from their levels of 1999. The prices in Michigan and other areas of the Midwest surpass the national increases by wide margins. Consumers have been shocked and their lives disrupted by this tremendous increase. Motor vehicles are part of the fabric of our culture and economy and any disruptions in our ability to keep the wheels rolling are cause for deep concern; and

Whereas, No single event has prompted our present situation. Instead, separate events and decisions occurring in our own backyard and around the globe have combined to drive prices to levels that are unacceptable if we are to maintain a strong and vibrant economy. The causes are murky, and the measures needed to reduce prices and prevent rapid price surges are not clear. We have repaired a pipeline and restored the flow of gasoline in Michigan, but how do we address the cause of a shortage of fuel for Michigan gas stations?; and

Whereas, It is reported that major oil companies have an abundant supply of gasoline while independent dealers are being cut off from adequate supplies. Only when all dealers have normal access to gasoline supplies will competition be reintroduced and will no single wholesaler monopolize supply and pricing. The United States Congress, as the chosen representatives of the American people, must step forward to investigate this issue in order to prevent another price surge. Without a complete grasp of the complex factors involved, we will be unable to cope with similar problems in the future and will instead simply place our trust in fate and the good will of others; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the United States Congress to initiate a study to determine the causes of the recent gasoline price surge; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2705: A bill to provide for the training of individuals, during a Presidential transition, who the President intends to appoint to certain key positions, to provide for a study and report on improving the financial disclosure process for certain Presidential nominees, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-348).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4733: A bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2001" (Report No. 106-346).

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Government Performance and Results Act of 1993" (Report No. 106-347).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2883. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on piano plates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow allocation of small ethanol producer credit to patrons of cooperative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ROBB):

S. 2885. A bill to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAMM (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2886. A bill to provide for retail competition for the sale of electric power, to authorize States to recover transition costs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 2887. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BROWBACK,

Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. L. CHAFFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 338. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Paul Coverdell, a Senator from the State of Georgia.; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. Con. Res. 131. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that lead to the creation of the independent trade union Solidarnose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2883. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on piano plates; to the Committee on Finance.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON PIANO PLATES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation temporarily suspending duties on imports of certain piano plates. This legislation is needed to address a difficult situation facing the domestic piano industry.

A piano plate is an essential part of a piano. It is the iron casting over which the strings are stretched and tuned by pins inserted in the plate. Baldwin Piano & Organ Company, which employs more than 600 workers in the production of pianos in Arkansas and Mississippi, is one of a diminishing number of piano producers in the United States. Piano plates are produced in the United States by a single company, a competitor of Baldwin, whose production is for the most part captively consumed. As such, Baldwin lacks a domestic source for piano plates, other than the surplus production of one of its competitors. Due to

its own demand for plates, Baldwin's competitor cannot meet Baldwin's requirements.

Mr. President the history and recent contraction in the domestic piano industry points to the critical need for this legislation. Indeed, were the production of Baldwin or other domestic producers to be curtailed due to the insufficient availability of domestically-produced piano plates, it is likely that this would engender an increase in foreign piano supply, rather than an increase in market share of other domestic producers. This is evident from the fact that, in the early 1980s, there were 15 domestic piano producers supplying approximately 80 percent of U.S. consumption, whereas now only nine domestic producers remain—servicing approximately half, if not less, of the U.S. market. The domestic piano industry is well aware that foreign production stands ready to fill any gap in domestic supply.

The legislation I am introducing today would temporarily suspend, through the year 2004, the rate of duty applicable to imports of piano plates provided for in subheading 9209.91.80 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. Currently, the applicable rate of duty is 4.2 percent ad valorem. If the legislation is approved, the reduction in duty collection is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 per year through 2004.

Given the situation currently facing domestic piano producers, it is unlikely that there will be objection from other domestic manufacturers to the legislation proposed today. In view of the fact that Baldwin must resort to imported plates regardless of the duty rate applicable to such imports, and that no appreciable domestic production of piano plates will be displaced by imports, suspension of the duty rate will have no adverse affect upon the domestic industry. This legislation stands to ensure only that a U.S. piano producer will find a reliable source of supply for a critical component and thus will be better positioned to stand with other domestic producers in providing a secure and stable supply of pianos for the domestic market.

I ask that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2883

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PIANO PLATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new item:

“	9902.92.09	Piano plates (provided for in subheading 9209.91.80)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2004	”.
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